

# The Caledonian Mercury.

Edinburgh, Tuesday, August 4, 1730.

From the Universal Spectator, July 25.

**T**Here's nothing Man stands more in Need of than *Advice*, yet nothing less kindly received. Nor need we wonder at this Humour, since the very Acceptance of *Council* is a tacit Confession of a Superiority of Judgment in the Giver. We oft find Men complain of Straitness in their Fortunes, Want of Beauty; nay, some will acknowledge Want of Merit: But whether it be that Men don't perceive, or that they want Courage to confess, we scarce meet one who will admit of a Defect in his *Understanding*. On the contrar, Men fancy themselves so well furnished in this Particular, that they are far more inclin'd to *instruct* than be *informed*. Hence we have so numerous a Crowd of *Authors*, who out of their abundant Wisdom and extensive Charity, continually furnish the World with their Admonitions; tho' their Performances are generally such, as none benefit thereby save the *Stationer*. The Writers in this Way have of late pester'd Mankind with their Dictatorial Councils, grating to the Taste of their Readers, and not very much to their own Advantage.

There is a much greater *Capacity*, and a far larger Circle of *Knowledge*, requir'd in a Person who takes on him to entertain and instruct the Publick, than generally is supposed. 'Tis not enough that he has an ardent Desire of inspiring the Hearts of his Readers with a Love of Virtue and a Detestation of Vice, which should be the End of all Writings; but he ought also to be endow'd with a large Share of *Prudence*, lest while he endeavours to pull the Vices up by the Roots, he may also eradicate some Virtues that grow up by the Borders. *Plutarch* observes on this Head, with great Elegancy, that some Vices, as Covetousness, Cruelty and Envy, which, like Shrubs in a Garden, may be roughly grabb'd up; while again, such as Bashfulness, or a too pitiful Compassion, must be handled with the greatest Caution; lest, together with them, we destroy Modesty, Humanity and good Nature.

The ancient Poets and Philosophers, take great

Care to inculcate in all their Writings this Axiom, That *Virtue* and *Truth* reside in the Middle, while *Error* and *Vice* inhabit the Extremes:

*Inter utrumque tene; medio tutissimus ibis.*

I shall here endeavour to shew, how we may apply this Rule, in regulating our *Opinions*, our *Manners*, and our *Morals*.

By *Opinions*, I mean the Sentiments we have of the Truth or Falshood of Things, in their Nature incapable of Certainty or Demonstration. How many Reams of Paper had been unblotted, if Mankind would have have rested content with this *Modesty* of Thinking in respect to many Topicks, in which, after all Inquiries, there is little Hope of finding Truth, or about which a wise Man would not scarce concern himself. What Volumes have been published of Philosophical Theories and Metaphysical Dissertations, which produc'd no other Effects, than turning the Brains of the Writers, and bewildering the Minds of those who read 'em. How many Men are nice in their Disquisition, and warm in Debate about the Nature of Virtue, who yet shew but little Regard to it in *Practice*; imagining it better to form an Idea of it in their Heads, than to feel it's real Impression on their *Hearts*. Our intellectual Faculties will convince us of the Reasonableness and Necessity of this middle way of Thinking. The Knowledge of Things necessary for human Life, are obvious to the meanest Capacity; while those Speculative Points, about which Men busy their Thoughts, and which don't concern us, are in their Nature so intricat and abstruse, that after a long and laborious Pursuit, we leave them in the same Uncertainty we find them. It seems, *Learning* consists in the Knowledge of Arguments; while *True Wisdom* is look'd on as a Thing fit only to employ the Care of the Volgar. The Emperors *Valentinian* and *Lucius* treated *Literature* as a Thing dangerous to the State; the wise *Lycurgus* banished it from *Sparta*; and the wisest of Men said, That in such *Wisdom* there is much *Sorrow*. *Modesty* will also be our best Guide in this; since the



the Mind cannot be better employed than in Pursuit of useful Knowledge; and never worse, than in hunting after airy Disquisitions.

By *Manners*, I understand the Behaviour of Man in the Scene of Life he acts in. *Milo*, tho' a Man of a vast Estate; yet has less *Manners* than a Footman: He comes into a Room, sits down at once, without the least Regard to any of the Company; when seated, he enters on any Discourse, without considering who they are that hear him; he rails at the Administration before Persons in the Ministry, he is 'gainst Priestcraft with Bishops, and uses *double Entendres* in Presence of Ladies. *Fimicio* is the very Reverse, who never accosts you under a Dozen of Bows, nor bids Adieu, without as oft assuring he is your most devoted humble Servant; he admires all he sees, and compliments every Man he speaks to; his Actions are an awkward Affectation, and all his Language an unmeaning Panegyrick. Thus, for want of a proper Medium between shoking Rusticity and slavish Complaisance, the one is regarded as a *Brute*, and the other as a *Pop*.

By *Morals*, I mean our Tendency to Good, and Aversion to Evil. *Mediocrity* sure is the best Guide to our Actions, as the Frontiers of Good and Evil are hard to be distinguished, and a Transition from Virtue to Vice sometimes imperceptible. Our sure Method then is, to be in the *Middle*, and equally to avoid a starch'd Severity and a prophane Libertinism. Those who would be at the Summit of Perfection, oft overstrain the Virtues they are fond of. One who is over nice in Point of Decorum, before he is aware, becomes guilty of Pride; and he who aims only at an exact Frugality, is by degrees easily betrayed into Covetousness:

*Nice are the Bounds that unto Right belong,*

*And but a Step on either Side is Wrong.*

In fine, such is the Frailty of our Constitution, and so incapable our Nature of Perfection, that a wise Man will ever avoid being positive in Opinions, singular in Manners, or precise in Morals; making it still the Standard of his Actions, to do Good to others, and to be at Peace within himself.

*Wye's Letter Verbatim, London, July 30.*

*Since our last arrived a Mail from France.*

They write from Venice, That on the 14th Instant *Te Deum* was sung there in all the Churches of that City, for Cardinal Corsini's Election to the Papal Throne. And those from Florence say, it was impossible to express the Joy

which the said Election has given to the Grand Duke, and in general to all the Inhabitants of that City, where the new Pope was born. And with this Choice the Emperor, according to Letters from Vienna, appears extraordinary well pleased; but as to an Accommodation, we cannot yet learn that he is inclined thereto, any otherwise than on the Foot of the Quadruple Alliance; and 'tis assured, that his Imperial Majesty has sent Orders to all his Ministers at Foreign Courts to declare the like. 'Tis remark'd amongst other Things, by some Partizans of the Emperor, as what seems to them very strange, viz. That certain Powers arm themselves against him, because he religiously adheres to the Letter of the Quadruple Alliance.

There was Yesterday a General Council at Windsor, at which Sir Robert Walpole and several of the Lords assisted, and the same Day the Earl of Chesterfield set out for Windior, to be present at the said Council, being sent for by his Majesty, on some Affairs of Importancy.

We hear of no further Preparations being made for the Expedition to Italy. Mean time 'tis not to be doubted but that we shall execute our Engagements with Spain, which are so advantageous to this Nation, particularly the restoring a free and uninterrupted Exercise of our Commerce. Since my last 8000 Perpets have been exported for Cadiz, also 9000 Cloths and other Stuffs, and 2660 Dozen of Hose for the Streights and other Parts of Spain: And 122,192 Pound Weight of Mohair Yarn, 33,680 of Goats Hair, 43,500 of Cotton Wool, and 5800 of Raw Silk, have been imported from Turkey.

We have an Account To-day from Oxford, that one Fuller being executed there last Thursday for the Murder of his Wife, and as he was cutting down, the Scholars demanded the Body for Dissection, which the Professors opposed, whereupon a desperate Riot ensued, but in Conclusion the former being joined by the Mob, got the Body and carried it to Christ's College, where it is now dissecting.

Private Letters from Barcelona by the French Mail mention, that the Spaniards go on vigorously with their Preparations, and hope that the present want of Money will be soon supplied by the Arrival of the Flota, so that their Expedition to Italy may perhaps be undertaken this Year.

Those from Leghorn of the 22d Inst. advise, that a Vessel arrived there in thirty Hours from Toulon



John, the Master whereof gave an Account, that the French Men of War, Gallies and Transports waited for the Appearance of the Spanish Fleet to join them. 'Tis added from Leghorn, that a Courier was passed thro' Pisa from Rome, with News that the new Pope had made four Cardinals, one whereof was M. Bichi, concerning whom there has been a Difference so long subsisting between the Courts of Rome and Portugal.

*From the Daily Post-Boy, July 30.*

*Hague, Aug. 1.* 'Tis said the Emperor's Answer to the Ultimatum of the Allies, is sprinkled with captions Proposals of Accommodation, if they will hearken to them. Sure this is what the Cardinal has been driving at, who cannot be happy, nor direct the Affairs of France with Pleasure, amidst the Hurries and Clamours of a War.

We will not be surprized, if the Emperor stops his Clamour against the D. of Mecklenburg's Return to his Dominions, in Consideration of his Sister in Law the Czarina; being informed, that a Letter of Submission to the Emperor will reinstate him; the Expedient proposed by the Czarina.

A Rumour is spread at Vienna, that one Power has offered the Emperor 5 Millions of Florins, and another Power 4 Millions in Bills of Exchange, if he will accept of the last Proposals for an Accommodation. But 'tis thought this Offer will have no Effect, because the Arrears of the Subsidies due from Spain will not fall much short of that Sum.

The Emperor stands by the Quadruple Alliance, and the Treaty of London, both which the King of G. and the States General are, in the Imperialists Sense, obliged to maintain to a Punctum. Thus all the Offers that can be made him, will hardly prevail with him to change his Mind, whatever Risque his Dominions in Italy or the Netherlands may be exposed to; his Imperial Majesty declaring, that he cannot in Conscience come into a Proposal so prejudicial to the Dukes of Tuscany and Parma, who are yet in perfect Health, and upon whom they would obtrude an arm'd Force, *volens volens*, to prescribe Laws to them in their own Estates. On the other hand, the Great Duke will to his utmost oppose that Design, and maintain his Rights at the Expence of his Treasure, &c. Yet, after all, the Seville Allies flatter themselves the Emperor will not stand the Chance of a War; and the Imperialists are even with them, and fancy the Allies will not proceed to a Rupture, notwithstanding their Preparations: Or if they should, large their Territories.

they say his Imperial Majesty is on his Guard, and will not patiently suffer the Attack.

Upon the whole, as the Cardinal is inflexibly pacifick, and would never willingly come into a Rupture; agreeably whereto, he would spin out the Negotiations till it is too late to go on the Expedition: So on the other Side, the Queen of Spain has her Reasons not to be content with the Arguments given for such a Delay, and therefore insists on the stipulated Succours, and even threatens to attempt the Work without them.

A certain Foreign Minister was heard exclaiming 'other Day, ' That things were strangely turn'd about in this present Age; That formerly when any Powers concluded a Treaty, they declared War against such of the contracting Powers as did not perform their Engagements: Now, *say he*, 'tis just the Reverse; the Drum is beat, Colours displayed, Fleets equipped; a Prince is threatened with a Rupture, for scrupulously adhering to Treaties, and performing his Promise. This is the Emperor's Case: They arm against him, because he religiously adheres to the Letter of the Quadruple Alliance, and to the most essential Part of it.

*London, July 30.* We hear the last Express from the Court of Spain, brought nothing to forward the Dispatch of the South Sea Company's Ship Pr. William for Porto Bello, which still continues in Long Reach: The Spaniards are very complaisant, and promise fair; but 'tis feared that at best they will delay her Departure so long, as to prevent her arriving in New Spain before the Gallies have sold their Cargoes, and consequently very much injure the Company in the Sale of their Goods; so that there is at present but little Prospect of their reaping the Benefit which from the Peace might have been now expected, as a Reward for their long Sufferings by the Spaniards.

By our Letters from Gibraltar, dated the 15th of last Month, we are informed that the People there think it a great Misfortune that they have no Communication by Land or Sea with Spain; the Spaniards keeping them block'd up within 3 Quarters of a Mile of their Works, in the same Place where they were a Year ago; and so strict is the General who commands their Line, that he will not suffer a Man to go in or out; and how long this will last, they cannot tell; they only wish for Leave to remove them; they would then soon enlarge their Territories.

Ed.

Early Yesterday Morning the Hon. Major John-  
son arrived here from Gibraltar, but on what Oc-  
casion is not yet known. We hear he set out for  
Windsor this Day.

The Duke of Hamilton, his two Sisters, the Earl  
of Selkirk, and Brigadier General Ker are prepa-  
ring to set out for North Britain.

The five young Highwaymen who are now in  
Reading Jail, have confessed to a Person of Quality,  
that they designed to have robbed their Majesties  
when they went out for the Air in the Morning  
without their Guards.

## ADVERTISEMENT.

Any Person who wants a New-colled ASS, with a  
SHE COLT; may enquire at James Brownlee at the Ex-  
change Coffeehouse; where they will be informed how to  
be provided.

## By ADJOURNMENT.

That the Lands of *Wester-Blackmyre, Easter Dovis-  
hill, the Easter Half of the Wester-Dovishill, Mill and Mill  
Lands of Herdmansheils, a Lime-stone Quarrey, with an old  
House and Dovecoat contiguous, upon a rising Ground, ha-  
ving a Rivulet at the Foot; holding Blanch of the Rt. Hon.  
my Lord Torphichen, lying within the Parish of West-Cal-  
der and Shire of Edinburgh; extending to L. 337 13 00 of  
Money Rent, 13 Bolls Meal, 5 Bolls Bear, 38 Kain-hens,  
6 Poultry, with some other Casualties: Are to be exposed  
to Sale by voluntary Roup on the on Eighteenth Day of August  
Inst. in the Laigh Coffeehouse in Edinburgh, betwixt the  
Hours of 3 & 4 after Noon. The Rental of the Lands, Con-  
ditions of Roup, and Progress of Writs, to be seen in the  
Hands of JAMES SYME Writer in Edinburgh, or George  
Dick Writer in Mid-Calder. *Nota.* The Lands will be en-  
tered at 20 Years Purchase, and are in good sufficient Te-  
nancy, and very capable of great Improvement, contain-  
ing a large Tract of Ground. That the Lime of the Quar-  
rey belonging thereto is a great Inricher of Ground, which  
the present Proprietor can shew to ocular Inspection, having  
had sufficient Proof thereof. It will also be an Encourage-  
ment to any Purchaser, that the present Proprietor will  
bear mutual Charges in inclosing the Marches to the West,  
lying contiguous. There are many Free-stone Quarries on  
the Ground, and the Lime may be had at an easy Purchase.*

That the Tenements of Land after mention'd, which  
belonged to the deceased ROBERT STARK Writer in  
Edinburgh, viz. The 2d Storey of a Tenement of Land,  
with a Cellar belonging thereto, lying in the Back of Bess,

wynd, paying of yearly Rent, L. 06 13 04 sterl. And the  
2d, 4th, 5th, and Top Stories of a Tenement of Land in  
Stewart's Close, near the Cross, with Cellars and Garrets,  
being all of yearly Rent, L. 22 15 00 sterl. Are to be ex-  
posed to voluntary Roup and Sale (jointly or in different  
Stories, as Purchasers shall desire) THIS DAY, the 4th of Au-  
gust Inst. at 3 in the Afternoon, within the House of Ms.  
Simson at the Head of Bess wynd. The Rental, Progress,  
and Conditions of Roup to be seen in the Hands of ADAM  
MERCER Writer in Edinburgh, in his House at the Head  
of Liberton's Wynd. And the said Creditors of the said  
Robert Stark are desir'd to meet at said Ms. Simson's House  
This Afternoon at 3 o'Clock, about some Things of impor-  
tance that concern them.

That the Lands of GRANGE OF BARRIE, with  
the Mannor-house, Teinds and Pertinents, lying in the Pa-  
rish of Barrie and Sheriffdom of Forfar, 6 Miles from Dun-  
dee, and the same Distance from Aberbrothock, holding of  
the CROWN for Payment of L. 07 04 00 yearly, as a Pro-  
portion of the Blanche-duty payable for the Lordship of  
Balmerino; being of neat yearly Rent, 34 Bolls 2 Firloths  
Bear, 18 Bolls 2 Firloths Oat Meal, and L. 334 06 00 Scots  
of Money, besides 48 Poultry not rental'd: ARE to be  
exposed to Sale by voluntary Roup, in Scots Coffeehouse  
in Dundee, upon Wednesday the 26th of August Inst. be-  
twixt the Hours of 2 & 4 after Noon. The Progress and  
Rental, with the Conditions of Roup, are to be seen in the  
Hands of DAVID BRISBANE Writer in Dundee.

By ADJOURNMENT till November.  
By the Trustees for MERCHISTON and LETHEN  
their Creditors:

That the Lands of MOUNT, lying in the Parish of Mo-  
nimeal and Shire of Fife, and Teinds of the same, holding  
Taxward of the Crown, and paying of yearly Rent 733 L.  
6 sh. 8 d. Scots Money, and 8 Bolls of Oats. Also, That  
the Lands of GLADSTANES and GREENSHEILS, ly-  
ing in the Parish of Liberton, Barony of Carnwath, and  
Shire of Lanark, holding Feu of the Laird of Carnwath  
and paying yearly L. 1668 06 08 Scots of Money; and a  
Chalder and an Half of Meal, and half a Chalder of Bear  
And also, a TEMPLE-LAND in Basington, paying L. 10  
yearly, and holding of the Earl of Haddington. ARE all  
to be exposed (separately) to Roup and Sale by the said  
Trustees, on 2d Friday of November next, in Wm. Gray's  
Vintner at the Head of Borthwick's close, Edinburgh,  
betwixt the Hours of 3 & 5 in the Afternoon. The Rentals,  
Progress, with the Writs and Conditions of Roup of the se-  
veral Subjects are to be seen in the Hands of JAMES HA-  
LIBURTON, Writer to the Signet and Clerk to the said  
Trustees, at his Chamber in the Luckenbooths.

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